

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Approving the Behavioral Health Resources Center FAC-1 Preliminary Planning Proposal.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. A housing emergency exists. Thousands of people in Multnomah County and the Metro region are facing housing instability and, increasingly, experiencing homelessness. These community members spend days and nights either without shelter or within our growing network of emergency shelters and supportive and transitional housing.
- b. The population experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable residents of the County. Experiencing homelessness causes tremendous human suffering. The substantial threats posed by homelessness to personal and public health, welfare, safety, and property are undisputed, well-documented, and recognized nationally.
- c. Moreover, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the County who also report disabling conditions, including behavioral health issues such as mental illness and substance use disorders, has continued to grow faster than the number of people experiencing homelessness overall
- d. There is a pressing need in Multnomah County for facilities and services to serve this population. Currently, services and facilities specifically serving this population are limited, which leaves these individuals to seek assistance through hospitals and crisis services, and increases their contact with law enforcement and jail. Serving this population through these systems is not the most effective or efficient approach and inappropriately strains the capacity of those systems.
- e. This resource gap has been identified by numerous reports and studies calling for improved community-based mental health infrastructure and specifically by: a 2012 United States Department of Justice Settlement agreement with the City of Portland requiring the establishment of one or more resource centers for individuals with behavioral health needs to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations; a 2015 Multnomah County Mental Health Jail Diversion Feasibility Study, which identified a 24-hour resource center as a crucial system gap that contributes to unnecessary incarceration of people in mental health crisis; and a 2018 Multnomah County Mental Health System Analysis recommending enhanced peer-led, walk-in services to address unmet need
- f. The Multnomah County Health Department, Mental Health and Addiction Services Division and the Joint Office for Homeless Services, in collaboration with our community partners have identified the need in our community for a centrally located, dedicated behavioral health resource center
- g. In 2018 Multnomah County engaged in an analysis of a facility in downtown Portland to determine the viability of the property to meet the requirements of the Center.

- h. In January 2019, The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2019-007: The purchase of the Real Property Located at 333 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon. This property is now owned by Multnomah County, Oregon.
- i. In January 2019, The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2019-011: The purchase the Real Property Located at 810 SW Oak Street, Portland, Oregon. This property is now owned by Multnomah County, Oregon.
- j. These properties, the building and the adjacent surface parking lot, present an excellent opportunity for establishment of the Center, potentially including peer support services, a shelter, and transitional housing (the “Project”).
- k. Further analysis in 2019 informed that renovation of these properties would provide the most efficient path forward to delivering these critical services to the community.
- l. The preliminary scope, schedule and estimated budget for the Project are outlined in the Multnomah County Behavioral Health Resources Center FAC-1 Preliminary Planning Proposal dated September 2019 (the “Proposal”).
- m. The County Project team recommends Board approval of the Proposal.
- n. Approval of the Proposal is in the best interests of Multnomah County.

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The Proposal is approved and the Project team is authorized to proceed with the next steps in the FAC-1 process and as specified in the Proposal.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jed Tomkins, Sr. Asst. County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Bob Leek, Director, Department of County Assets